

GIANTS: BYE-BYE, BRADSHAW {page 28}

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NEW YORK

Thursday, February 7, 2013

► Several proposals to help victims get back on their feet ► Bloomberg promises grants for people still without homes ► Plan offers grants to those businesses that promise to stay in New York City {page 02}

SANDY AID ARRIVES

MILES DIXON/METRO

Fashion Week. Preview

"There's going to be a lot of signature Wu-ism that people have come to know me for, taken to another level. That's the whole part of brand-building, to drive the point home every time you do anything."

JASON WU

► We kick off NY Fashion Week with an exclusive interview with Jason Wu and a profile on style icon Theophilus London. Plus, spend 24 hours with Tibi's Amy Smilovic, third from left. {pages 13-19}

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PLUS

THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE IS HERE! {page 25}



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First Sandy aid trickles into NYC

► Bloomberg promises grants for people without homes ► Thousands still in hotels, shelters ► Plan offers grants to businesses who promise to stay in NY

The first chunk of new federal aid for Hurricane Sandy assistance will be largely funneled to people still stuck without homes, the mayor said yesterday morning.

Three months after the storm, thousands of New Yorkers are not sleeping in their own homes.

Yesterday, the first Congress-approved aid began filtering in, including \$1.77 billion for New York City. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the funding will create grants for homeowners and businesses struggling to rebuild.

In a hearing Tuesday, the City Council addressed the thousands of people unable to return to homes — some in shelters, others in hotels. Many said before the hearing that they are living in squalid conditions.

Starting in April or May, the funding will provide grants to homeowners, as well as businesses, who need help getting back on their feet, Bloomberg said.

“Some have had their homes completely destroyed, and the question is, what are we going to do to help them?” he said.

But Patrick Markee at the Coalition for the Homeless said the proposals do not meet a pressing need — long-term assistance to people waiting for



► Many buildings in Lower Manhattan are still using generators to keep the power on.

MILES DIXON/METRO

Quoted

“People are very proud of their homes in New York, particularly in these communities.”

BLOOMBERG

rebuilt homes. Not all are homeowners, he said. Many were renting and are unable to find new apartments.

For example, an older Russian couple was renting a Coney Island basement apartment for \$800 a month, he said.

Now they find \$1,500 rents, which they cannot afford. Sandy impacted more than 13,000 busi-

nesses, Bloomberg said. The city will offer up to \$1 million in grants to business owners who commit to stay in New York City.

“You can’t live if there aren’t local stores,” Bloomberg said. “We want to make sure they recover and make themselves less vulnerable.”

The millions devoted to recovery also include \$120 million toward public housing developments, for uses like installing generators, and \$100 million in grants for innovative infrastructure ideas.



Alison Bowen
alison.bowen@metro.us

People ‘don’t want to leave’ hotels

Bloomberg said today that some staying in hotels are not eager to check out. “Some of the people in hotels don’t want to leave,” he said. Markee dismissed this as “a ridiculous comment,” adding that people do not enjoy spending three months away from jobs, communities and schools. “None of these families want to stay in a hotel,” he said.

Bloomberg defends gov’t. delay

The mayor told reporters

that funds would be available in the spring. “We’re not just going to send out checks,” he said. They want to make sure everyone

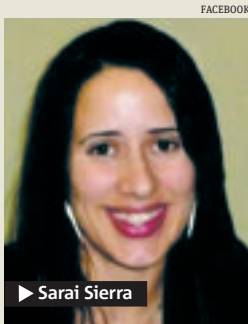
qualifies. “In government speak, this is instantaneous. The government doesn’t back up a truck and dump bills on the ground.”

News in brief

Sarai Sierra’s body flown home

The body of a mother, 33-year-old Sarai Sierra, killed while traveling abroad in Turkey will be flown home today, according to the Daily News.

Her husband and brother flew to the country themselves when she never arrived for her flight home. Her body was found last weekend. She had suffered a blow to the head. Police are still trying to find her bag, which had her cell



► Sarai Sierra

phone and iPad, according to the Daily News.

An FBI spokesperson confirmed to Metro that the agency is conducting

an investigation into Sierra’s case. ● METRO/AB

Jeep stolen with infant inside

A car robbery turned into a kidnapping last night when a man made off with a Jeep with an infant inside.

Police report that a man jumped into a 2005 Grand Cherokee when the occupants had stepped out, then sped away.

A 7-month-old baby girl was inside the car.

The theft occurred at around 6:30 p.m. last night.

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Age, in months, of the girl inside the Jeep

The car was found about two miles south at Goble Place and Jerome Avenue about an hour later. The baby was inside, unharmed.

The police caught the suspect on surveillance camera in a parking garage at 1521 Inwood Ave., about a block away from where the car was found. The sus-

pect had tried to park the car around 20 minutes after the theft.

The vehicle’s occupants were the infant’s parents, who had parked their car on East Kingsbridge Road between Morris and Creston avenues, with the keys and the infant inside, according to police.

The police are requesting the public’s help in finding the suspect, who they describe as a heavy-set Hispanic man in a black-and-white striped shirt and a baseball cap.

● METRO

In the news

Bx man shot twice in head

A man was found dead with two gunshot wounds in his head early yesterday morning in the Bronx, police reported. The victim was found lying on the 13th-floor staircase of a Morrisania Air Rights public housing project building around 2 a.m. Emergency medical workers responded and pronounced the victim dead on arrival. His identity was withheld pending family notification. No arrests have been made, and the investigation is ongoing.

● METRO/EC

In the news



Here comes nor’easter Nemo

A winter storm is headed New York’s way, and predictions estimate half a foot of snow might fall on the city.

The nor’easter, named Nemo, is the 14th named winter storm of the year, according to the Weather Channel.

The National Weather Service reports that snow is likely Thursday night after 3 a.m., becoming gusty with rain throughout Sunday.

● METRO/AB

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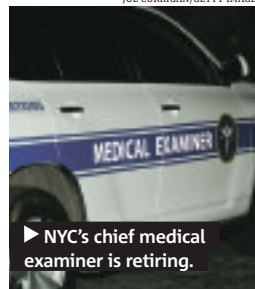
04

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013

Longtime medical examiner is retiring

JOE CORRIGAN/GETTY IMAGES



► NYC's chief medical
examiner is retiring.

New York City's chief medical examiner is retiring after 24 years of investigating city deaths, including the casualties of 9/11, the mayor announced Wednesday.

Dr. Charles Hirsch, 75, was appointed in 1989 as chief medical examiner by the late Ed Koch, who was mayor at the time.

Often called the "father of modern forensic pathology," Hirsch founded the largest public DNA laboratory in the country and also served as professor and chairman of forensic medicine at New York University Medical School.

Hirsch's deputy, Dr.

Barbara Sampson, will assume the role of chief medical examiner, The New York Times reported. Hirsch broke his ribs in the collapse of the World Trade Center while responding to the 9/11 attacks, but the city said he continued to lead his team in retrieving remains and identifying victims.

According to the city, the identification process for the thousands of victim body parts continues under the institutions and staff Hirsch created and trained.

Evelyn Chang
letters@metro.us

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Charles Hirsch spent
24 years investigating
city deaths, including
the casualties of
9/11.

News in brief

Woman killed in dump truck hit-and-run

A woman was struck dead by a dump truck two blocks west of Times Square on Tuesday, police

Arrest made

Police have arrested the suspect, New Jersey resident Jack Montebano, 47, who left the scene immediately after the collision.

reported. Shu Ying Liu, 69, was crossing West 41st Street near 9th Avenue around 10:11 a.m. when police said a turning dump truck hit her.

She was brought to St. Luke's Hospital and pronounced dead, police stated. ● **METRO**

Cuomo. Budget



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Cuomo talks budget proposals

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo talked about his State of the State speech and budget proposals yesterday at the City College of New York. Among the issues addressed were the cost of the recovery from Hurricane Sandy, policing, economic development and education. His \$142.6 million executive budget would increase state spending by 2 percent and raise school aid by 4.4 percent, to \$21 billion. ● **METRO**

News in brief

Men plunge through ice in Central Park

Two men fell through the ice in Central Park on Tuesday afternoon near 59th Street, the FDNY reported. Despite warning signs about thin ice, Ayang Nyamaa, 19, was taking pictures on the ice with his friend Abdoulatif Ali, 20, when they fell through, the New York Post reported. Although Ali got out quickly, the New York Daily News said, a firefighter had to save Nyamaa and a police officer, who fell into the water. The young men and rescuers are fine, but the Post said police will summon both men for trespassing.

● **METRO/EC**

4

Four people
were taken to
the hospital after
the icecapade.

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Top New York judge calls bail system unfair to poor

New York Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman has urged lawmakers to overhaul the state's bail laws, saying the current system was unfair to indigent defendants charged with low-level crimes.

During his annual State of the Judiciary speech, Lippman called for legislation that would authorize judges to consider public safety when deciding whether a defendant should be released or held on bail and create a statutory presumption that a person charged with a non-violent crime would be released, unless a prosecutor could show that the person was a flight risk or threat to public safety.

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**"This makes
no sense and
certainly does
not serve the
best interests
of our
communities
and our citizens."**

LIPPMAN

Pretrial detention

Lippman's call for bail reform comes one week after the U.S. Conference of Chief Justices unanimously

approved a resolution urging states to limit the use of pretrial detention to defendants who are considered flight risks or pose a threat to public safety.

four states to prohibit judges from using public safety as a factor when making a bail determination, Lippman said on Tuesday.

Currently, he said, many non-violent defendants who do not pose a threat to the public languish in jail because they cannot afford bail.

"This makes no sense and certainly does not serve the best interests of our communities and our citizens," Lippman said during the speech, which he delivered at the Court of Appeals in Albany.

He also urged lawmakers to pass legislation permitting the use of cameras in state courtrooms.

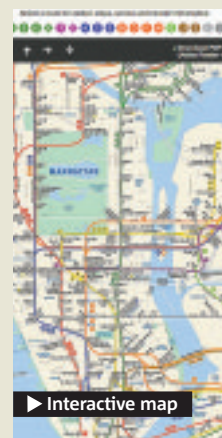
REUTERS

News in brief

MTA releases interactive online map

Subway riders can now zoom in and out on the MTA's interactive online map released yesterday. Icons above the map let the user quickly find the stops, schedule and transfer information for individual lines. Clicking on prior versions of the map had caused another PDF close-up of the region to open, the New York Times reported. The interactive map, showing only weekday service, reflects changes to the system caused by Hurricane Sandy. Late night and weekend maps are still only available in PDF format.

● METRO



► Interactive map

MTA

In the news

Long Island College Hospital may close

Long Island College Hospital in Cobble Hill may close, according to Brownstoner.

The President of SUNY Downstate Medical Center has reportedly already suggesting shutting the hospi-



► LI College Hospital

tal down, and the NY Post reported that it may be sold and developed into luxury housing.

The hospital could reportedly be sold for as much as \$100 million, and

Brownstoner noted that SUNY is "virtually broke."

The entire Cobble Hill and Brooklyn Heights areas receive all emergency service from LICH.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, preceding a vote on Friday.

SUNY Downstate reportedly spent over \$200 million on the failing 155-year-old hospital two years ago. ● METRO/DT

Politics. Protest



► Protesters outside of the U.S. Court of Appeals in lower Manhattan.

GETTY IMAGES

Spotlight on indefinite detention of prisoners

Protesters hold signs outside the U.S. Court of Appeals on Feb. 6 in Manhattan. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit heard arguments yesterday in a lawsuit over the Obama administration's indefinite detention policies. ● METRO

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In the news

GETTY IMAGES

activity, are more overweight and have higher rates of hypertension and high cholesterol, according to a study released yesterday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

BLOOMBERG

Report: US set up secret drone base in Saudi Arabia

The United States is operating a secret base out of Saudi Arabia and used it to launch a CIA drone strike in 2011 that killed U.S.-born al Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki, according to a media report.

The Washington Post, in a report yesterday, said the Middle East base was set up two years ago as part of U.S. officials' effort to ramp up its search for members of the militant group.

Representatives for the CIA declined to comment on the report. **REUTERS**

► Overweight baby boomers

Study finds baby boomers less healthy than parents' generation

Baby boomers have more chronic illness and disability than their parents, as their sedentary habits and expanding girth offset the modern medicine that enables them to live longer, a study said.

Baby boomers, the 78 million Americans born from 1946 through 1964, engage in less physical

Christie slams doctor who said he could die in office

GETTY IMAGES



► The governor told David Letterman that his wife and kids prod him regularly to lose weight.

Chris Christie, on dieting

"Every week, every month, every year, there's a plan. ... Sometimes periods of great success are followed by periods of great failure."

medicine."

"I find it fascinating that a doctor in Arizona — who's never met me, never examined me, never reviewed my medical history

or records and knows nothing about my family history — could make a diagnosis from 2,400 miles away," Christie said in Sea Girt. **REUTERS**

Donut joke

Christie has said his weight doesn't slow him and shouldn't bar him from seeking the presidency.

During a Feb. 4 appearance on CBS's "Late Show with David Letterman," the governor said that his cholesterol and blood-sugar levels were both within normal ranges during a physical exam ahead of his 50th birthday in September.

"I'm basically the healthiest fat guy you've ever seen in your life," he told the late-night comedian, who replied that he should make it the slogan for his reelection campaign.



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RBS fined \$600M for rate rigging

Britain's Royal Bank of Scotland was fined \$612 million as regulators punished a third bank and warned of more to come in a global investigation into the rigging of benchmark interest rates.

RBS said yesterday it was cutting bonuses to help pay for the fine, in a bid to avoid a public backlash. The bank fears the scandal will embolden critics who want it to further shrink its profitable investment bank and focus on basic lending at home. "What happened at RBS and other banks is totally unacceptable," Britain's Finance Minister George Osborne told reporters.

REUTERS

82%

RBS is mostly owned by the state after its 2008 bailout.

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THE DAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE

Inauguration flag — made in Belgium?

When President Barack Obama was sworn in for his second term on Jan. 21, it's a decent bet that at



least one of the flags fluttering behind him was made in Belgium. The Waelkens flag company, based in the small town of Oostrozebeke in Flanders, supplies around 2,000 flags a year to the United States, with clients including the Pentagon and other departments as well as the U.N. **REUTERS**

Boy Scouts delay vote on gay ban

The Boy Scouts of America yesterday delayed until May a vote on whether to end a controversial ban on gay members, drawing praise and rebukes from the two sides of a heated debate that has drawn in politicians as well as parents. Board members for the youth organization, which turns 103 tomorrow, had been expected to vote on the matter at a meeting yesterday. The Boy Scouts upheld the ban just last



► Is the BSA ban on gay members also cast in stone?

year amid sharp criticism from gay-rights groups.

The national executive board has been meeting privately since Monday at a hotel in Irving, Texas.

REUTERS

Search for bombs at Ala. siege site

Bomb technicians searched for explosive devices yesterday after two were found at the rural Alabama property where a man, who had held a young boy hostage in an underground bunker for nearly a week, was killed in a firefight with authorities Monday.

Investigators dismantled two explosive devices that were found two days ago at the

scene near Midland City in southeast Alabama, the FBI said. One device was inside the bunker where Jimmy Lee Dykes, 65, had holed up for nearly a week with a 5-year-old boy he had randomly snatched off a school bus after killing the driver.

The second device was in a plastic pipe Dykes had asked negotiators to use to communicate with him during the stand-off. **REUTERS**



Saturday mail deliveries to end

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES



► Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night ... but Saturdays are a problem.

The Postal Service plans to drop Saturday delivery of first-class mail by August in its latest effort to cut costs after losing nearly \$16 billion last fiscal year, the cash-strapped mail agency said yesterday.

The plan would save about \$2 billion a year, the Postal Service said. The mail agency will still deliver packages six days a week and will not change post-office operating hours.

The Postal Service has been losing billions of dollars each year as it grapples with massive payments for future retiree health benefits and as Americans increasingly rely on online communications that drive down mail volumes.

The agency has been seeking congressional approval to get relief from those prepayments and for a larger restructuring to reduce costs. **REUTERS**

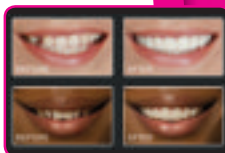
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THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip [@dorothyatmetro](#) dorothy.robinson@metro.us



The ugly Beyonce photo controversy

Brand won't sink to that level over ex-Perry

This column is full of celebrities trash-talking one another (have I mentioned yet how much I loathe the feud between **Brandi Glanville** and **LeAnn Rimes**? I feel like I need to talk to a therapist just from reading Glanville's Twitter feed. They are both so awful). So it's refreshing to report to you one celebrity who won't go in the gutter — and he's a former heroin addict. Go figure. During a recent visit to **Howard Stern's** radio show, **Russell Brand** got the chance to criticize ex-wife **Katy Perry** for dating **John Mayer**, but he didn't take it. "Doesn't she know that he's a worse womanizer than you?" Stern asked, to which Brand joked, "Worse or better, depending on how you view it." But Stern's prodding didn't produce any naysaying. "So help me God, Howard Stern, I will not compromise my ex-wife's vagina for the sake of ratings," Brand declared. "That woman was perfect from top to bottom." As for Brand's own love life, "I'm not dating anybody. Actually, I'd like a romance," he says. "Not so much playing the field, just going through life, meditating, doing yoga, concentrating on this TV show and trying to find a nice wife."



► Beyonce's face makes faces. Get over it.

to know that she's actually a human and not some leather-clad robot created by the Knowles family to make all women feel terrible about themselves.

that saturate our day-to-day lives. Faces make faces, especially when you're performing as hard as she did on Sunday night. If anything, it's nice

On Monday, BuzzFeed published "The 33 Fiercest Moments From **Beyonce's** Halftime Show" which, as the title entails, included photos of Bey looking like the warrior princess she is. The problem? Apparently Beyonce and her team found some of the pictures unflattering and e-mailed the site to have them take them down as God forbid Beyonce ever looks unattractive. The e-mail from her publicist read, "Thanks for taking my call. As discussed, there are some unflattering photos on your current feed that we are respectfully asking you to change. I am certain that you will be able to find some better photos."

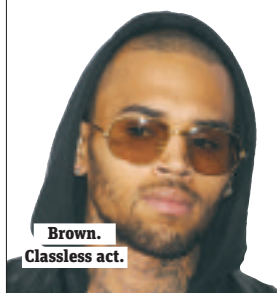
The Word is reprinting some of the photos here. As you can see, they aren't the best — but how in the world could a few bad shots of Beyonce ruin her stature as an icon? They are merely drops in the ocean of Beyonce imagery

Talking points

Brown to redo community service

Chris Brown may have to start his community service all over again now that a Los Angeles District Attorney is alleging the singer failed to provide "credible, competent or verifiable evidence" that he fulfilled his obligation, according to the Los Angeles Times. Brown was given 180 days of community service as part of his sentence for assaulting

Rihanna in 2009, and he was granted permission to complete it in his home state of Virginia. But now **D.A. Mary Murray** claims there are "significant discrepancies" in the reports about his service, which she says are "at best sloppy documentation



Brown. Classless act.

and at worst fraudulent reporting." Brown's lawyer, **Mark Geragos**, is promising to fight back, though. "Apparently the district attorney's office has completely lost their minds," he tells the newspaper.

Spears heads to Las Vegas

Her engagement may be off and her time on "The X Factor" may be over, but **Britney Spears** still has something to look forward to: The singer is reportedly close to finalizing a deal to perform a series of concerts at a Las Vegas hotel, according to E! News. "We are in

deep negotiations and I'd be shocked if it didn't happen," Spears' manager, **Larry Rudolph**, says.

Fieri kicked out of Super Bowl party

Celebrity chef **Guy Fieri** didn't have such a great time when he hit Louisiana for the Super Bowl. When Fieri was reportedly denied access to the VIP area at a pre-Bowl bash at Second Line Studio, "he threw a fit and was kicked out," a source tells Us Weekly. "He caused a total scene. He didn't have the right bracelet, and nobody in New Orleans knows who anyone is."



► Brand. Class act.

The feed ...

► Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Carrie Underwood wants some common courtesy in the air, Michelle Trachtenberg watches a lot of TV and Edward Burns is nursing himself back to health.

@carrieunderwood
A note to fellow air travelers: if you must talk SO loud, PLEASE keep the cursing to a minimum. We can't get away from you.

@RealMichelleT
Rules of Law & Order: if someone says, "There was this one guy....." It's ALWAYS that guy.

@edward_burns
Feeling better. Flu subsiding. Getting back into bed with Scorsese. Taxi Driver this afternoon. Departed up next.



Trachtenberg

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It's 2006 again

1: Ladies and gentlemen, we present to you a reunited **Fall Out Boy**. **Pete Wentz** (sans guyliner) and co. resurfaced at Elvis Duran and the Morning Show in NYC yesterday.

3: **Ginnifer Goodwin** sung the praises of Listerine at an

event for the brand Tuesday in NYC.

4: **Josh Duhamel** and wife **Fergie** struck a happy pose at the after-party for the premiere of his new film, "Safe Haven," Tuesday in Hollywood.

5: Our favorite motion capture actor **Andy Serkis** popped up at the Visual Effects Society Awards Tuesday in Beverly Hills.

6: Here's **Al Gore** doing his best seated "Gangnam Style" dance — er, discussing his new book "The Future" — at The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library And Museum in Boston yesterday.

1: ROBIN MARCHANT/GETTY
2: MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY
3: JERRITT CLARK/GETTY
4: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY
5: IMEH AKPANUDISEN/GETTY
6: PAUL MAROTTA/GETTY

2

Vanessa Hudgens was a vision in black at the launch of the new Johnvarvatos.com Tuesday in NYC.



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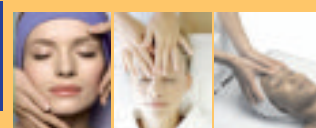
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THIS MAN IS ON FIRE

► Designer Jason Wu dressed Michelle Obama and then days later announced the launch of his new makeup line ► How he went from reading Vogue to filling its pages {FW-2}

**Diary of a
designer: Tibi**

{FW-6, FW-7}

**Theophilus: No
stylist required**

{FW-4}

fashion week preview

THE SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE JASON WU

How has your New Year gone so far? Jason Wu has already created a second inauguration dress, announced plans to launch a makeup line and designed a new ready-to-wear collection. In many ways, the 30-year-old is the unintentional embodiment of the self-help world's most famous book, "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." He taught himself English through American fashion magazines, started a women's wear company with his own savings during a recession and wound up dressing the first lady. In the run-up to his New York Fashion Week show, we chat about Michelle Obama and how he went from admiring supermodels in Vogue as a Mandarin-speaking 9-year-old to hiring them for his ad campaigns.

There was a rumor circulating on Twitter that your first words in English were Stephanie Seymour, who now stars in your ad campaign. Is that true?

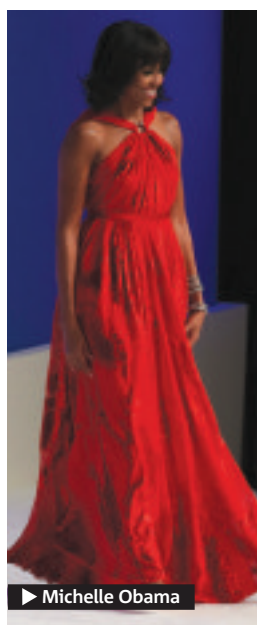
Not quite, but it might as well be. [Laughs] When I first moved to Canada from Taiwan, I didn't speak a lick of English. I grew up speaking Mandarin. So I learned the language by reading my mom's fashion magazines. I was never the best 'A' student in school. I learned by applying what I loved. One day I was talking to my aunt, who also had a lot of fashion magazines, and I pointed out Stephanie Seymour. She was like, 'How do you know who Stephanie is?' Fashion seems to be this impenetrable, daunting industry. But for me to be able to get to where I am today speaks to how many opportunities there are.

What were you doing in the exact moment when you



COURTESY OF JASON WU

► **We chat about dressing the first lady and how Wu went from admiring supermodels in Vogue as a 9-year-old to hiring them for his ad campaigns**



► Michelle Obama

GETTY IMAGES

Q&A

You've dressed Michelle Obama for two inaugurations. How did this one differ?

It wasn't something that I quite expected. I can't say that I know so much about politics. And when I was approached the first time, I wasn't as familiar with Mrs. Obama. I felt like I was part of a moment. But with this second time, it felt more subtle. I felt like it was important for me to keep pretty private about it. I never wanted to sort of exploit the fact that the first lady has been so great to wear me on such an important occasion.

saw Michelle Obama in her second inauguration gown?

My staff and I were working because I have my show coming up. We were live-streaming it on my computers, and no one wanted to talk about it so as not to jinx it. But when we saw her, we just all let out this scream. When I first did this four years ago, I had four employees. But this year, I had 30 to celebrate with.

In a way, that's a very clear example of the effect she's had on the fashion industry.

People say, "Why is it such a big deal that Michelle Obama wore a green dress the other day?" Usually it's the president talking with the first lady standing by his side. But it says something about the power of

Three of Jason

Wu's habits

- "I wake up every day at 8 a.m. and am at work at 9. I pretty much keep the same schedule. I just never know when I'm going to get home. I always joke that I should just install a shower here in my office."
- "The more I take care of myself, the better my

work will be. I work out, but during show time in winter my workout schedule could be better."

- "I like to stay calm and organized. If you were to come backstage to my show before it starts, you'd see a calm environment that contradicts the stereotypical idea of Fashion Week backstage with the models running around with one shoe on and curlers in their hair."

Q&A

You're collaborating with Lancome on a beauty line. Several years before that, you created a nail polish collection for CND.

Beauty is a complement to the clothes. In my teens I bought the Kevyn Aucoin books. They were so inspiring for me. I've never been the person to do minimal hair and makeup. Beauty has always been a part of the design process for me. Even in my

working with Hollywood actresses, I'll work with the hair and makeup. I've worked with Diane Kruger, Michelle Williams, Jessica Pare. When it's done correctly, it can create some magical moments.

Are there any that stand out in your mind?

Diane Kruger at the SAG Awards two years ago. We collaborated together. She wore red lips and was very high glam. The hair and makeup and dress suited the event beautifully.



fashion that Michelle has been able to silently communicate things. For example, she speaks volumes just through the nationality of the designer she chooses. I don't think there has been any other woman who has used fashion to that effect.

To some parts of the world, you, who left Taiwan at the age of 9, are now the face of American fashion.

It's quite cliché in many ways, but a lot of times we talk about achieving the American dream. And in the real world, you don't think that ever happens. But my career has changed my mind about that. There was something more grown-up about where we are as a society with this second inauguration.

What can you tell us about your upcoming collection?

I've been working on being more confident in what I do and to create real signatures. So there's going to be a lot of signature Wu-ism that people have come to know me for, taken to another level. That's the whole part of branding, to drive the point home every time you do anything. Naturally, I feel like I've grown up some.

Alexander Wang recently accepted a job as creative director of Balenciaga.

Would she ever consider helming a Parisian house?

I guess it's something I'll have to see as I cross that bridge.

Kenya Hunt
METRO WORLD NEWS



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fashion week preview

Music looks better with you



► Theophilus who? ► He parties with Solange, sits front row at Chanel and raps with Kanye
► We meet the man behind the music and the brand, hip-hop artist Theophilus London

“Kids used to want to be rappers — but now they want to be fashion designers, which is cool,” says Theophilus London. “It’s an education.” The New York-based rapper is talking about his legions of fans, which he refers to as “kids.” But in terms of the music industry, Theophilus, at 25, is still a youth himself — though a savvy one.

In fact, he’s probably had more magazine and newspaper profiles (GQ, Esquire, Elle, The New York Times) and fashion collaborations (Cole Haan, Stussy and Surface to Air) than he’s had musical airtime. And he can name-drop with the best of them. Solange Knowles is “like family, like a sister.” He casually mentions seeing mood boards out at Kanye West’s house, and in the next breath recalls “smoking hash” with Mark Ronson “while chatting about girlfriends and wives and that kind of s—.” Those are some impressive connections considering that London, who was actually born in Trinidad, has only released one album, an EP and a selection of mix tapes.

Usually the lucrative endorsement are rewarded after years of toil. However, London has managed to capitalize off of his personal style and cool credibility first. “Rappers used to be wearing Air Jordans,” he says. “I still wear them. But now, the progressive kids are more educated and wanting Givenchy, Rick Owens or Alexander Wang. And Kanye’s clothes — they’re dope.” His own approach to fashion is a studied one. “The black suit and hat that I’m wearing on the



► London, at Chanel

“My look? It’s kind of like a uniform: black Rochambeau hat, black jacket and my jewelry.”

LONDON

cover of my first album, ‘Timez Are Weird These Days,’ was inspired by Leon Ware [the writer behind Marvin Gaye’s ‘I Want You’ record]. I got a lot of work off of the back of that. I know how to dress. I have a look and I don’t need a stylist to tell me what to wear,” he adds.

Brand endorsements abound — indeed, he’s answering my questions from the set of a Chevrolet commercial — but London swears he approaches it all with a strategy. “I’d never do anything with McDonald’s. They’re not moral,” he says. “I have my own agenda.” For now, that includes a new album coming out this summer and collaborations with Azealia Banks and Frank Ocean. “I never do things just for the money. I have to believe in it.”

Richard Peckett
METRO WORLD NEWS

On your radar

Fashion Week — in Instagram

These are the accounts to follow for the full Fashion Week experience, from backstage to the front row.

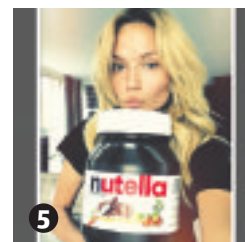
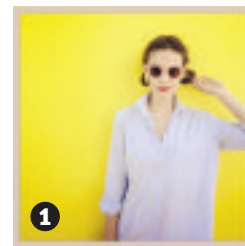
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Front row:

1 Alexa Chung
Chung is a front-row favorite in London, so expect her to attend quintessentially British shows including Mulberry, House of Holland and Vivienne Westwood.
INSTAGRAM HANDLE: @CHUNGALEXA

2 Victoria Beckham
V.B. loves to share cute, everyday pictures with her fans. But now she’s a respected designer (not just a Spice Girl/soccer player’s wife.) We’re looking forward to getting a sneak peek of her life during the shows.
INSTAGRAM HANDLE: @VICTORIABECKHAM

3 Rachel Zoe
As a personal stylist to Hollywood’s elite (Jennifer Garner, Anne Hathaway, Kate Hudson), Zoe gets a free pass to pretty much every show.



She’s always one step ahead when it comes to the latest fashion trends, so follow her Instagram to suss out what key items you should be investing in this season.

INSTAGRAM HANDLE: @RACHELZOE

Backstage

4 Jasmin Tookes
Trust a model to give the best beauty advice. Tookes’ photo diary is all about last-minute skin savers (\$30 firming eye gels — bargain!) and chocolate-covered fruit skewers. Now we know how these girls make it through Fashion Week unscathed.

INSTAGRAM HANDLE: @JASTOOKES

5 Natasha Poly
When the Russian model isn’t running, moisturizing, boxing or eating Nutella from a mega-size jar, she’s taking power naps backstage. Follow her for real-time updates of what the models get up to pre- and post-show.

INSTAGRAM HANDLE: @NATASHAPOLY

6 Cara Delevingne
The brow-heavy model loves to share snaps of her making faces (she’s still gorgeous, though), getting some beauty TLC and of her with BFF Rita Ora. Her favorite post-show snack? A hamburger. **INSTAGRAM HANDLE:** @CARADELEVINGNE



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NEW YORK



Model fittings

► We asked Tibi designer Amy Smilovic to keep a diary of her pre-fashion show prep five days before her line debuts ► Here's what it takes to put on a runway show at New York Fashion Week

► **5:30 a.m.:** "I wake up and immediately get on Style.com, then e-mail Traci [Bui-Amar], my head designer. She's the last person I e-mail at night and the first person I e-mail in the morning. I'm sure both of our husbands are like, 'Cut it out!'"

► **7 a.m.:** "Get the kids off to school. Breakfast is a PowerBar — for the kids, too. They're like, 'Mom, can we make something?' I'm like, 'No. Off in the car with a PowerBar.' Then I'm on the train."

► **8:30 a.m.:** "I get into the city and grab my third cup of coffee from the deli: French vanilla mixed with strong Columbian. I can't deal with lines at Starbucks."

► **8:45 a.m.:** "I walk into the office and run into literally about 75 models lined up, ready to start casting. I take a seat on the couch with my casting director and two of my design team members, and the girls start walking. If they pass, then they try on one of the outfits from the show and they walk in that. Probably only one out of every 10 girls makes it to the outfit change. I always feel bad! What can I say? I'm from the South."

► **12:30 p.m.:** "A box for the collection arrives: We open it and realize the hooded



► A sketch from Fall 2013

"Probably only one out of every 10 girls makes it to the outfit change. I always feel bad! What can I say? I'm from the South."

SMILOVIC

sweatshirts are in cashmere instead of merino wool like they were supposed to. I don't freak out — it's just not worth it. We start plac-

ing embroidery things on them and move them into holiday, and make it work. People talk about trends, but sometimes trends start because the factories sent you the wrong damn thing."

► **1 p.m.:** "We break for lunch. I make a protein shake with Fage yogurt, spinach, ginger, coconut water, strawberry, banana and pomegranate powder. Leandra Medine [of Manrepeller], who's in to see the collection, comments on how professional my smoothie looks. She's into kale right now, so not doing the spinach thing. Whatever."

► **3 p.m.:** "Traci and I start butting heads. I decide to go for a walk. This is my third one today. She always says that I'm just trying to make something look 'cool' or I'm just trying to make it look 'designer.' And I'm like, 'Really?' 'Cause I don't want it to look cool?' But we know that when we fight before a show, that's when there's usually the best outcome."

► **7 p.m.:** "Casting is wrapped up and we start our pricing meeting. Merchandisers look at if you have enough things at X price and Y price, so it's very long and tedious."

► **8pm:** "We break for dinner. We order from Yo sushi



► Amy Smilovic and her team deliberate.

and late-night vodkas



► Designer Amy Smilovic in her pre-Fashion Week uniform of jeans and sweater.

— our favorite. I get my usual, shrimp tempura.”

► **10 p.m.:** “Meeting is done. We need a drink. We keep alcohol here. I like to drink straight vodka with lots of ice and lots of olives. We get

PR involved and now it’s turned into a drinks slash social media brainstorm for Fashion Week.”

► **11:30 p.m.:** “Home at last. I immediately e-mail Traci. I have a great idea! Then I’m

in bed with ‘Flight Behavior’ by Barbara Kingsolver. Before I sleep, I check Dlistd — it’s hilarious.”



Tina Chadha
tina.chadha@metro.us



► The team has a moment at casting.



► A model struts her stuff.

Getting ready

► Fashion Week

lifesavers: “To clear my head and keep calm before the show, I’ve been turning to Jessie Ware on repeat, Tommy Ton’s style pictures from the Paris couture shows and dreaming of a trip to Hotel Salto Chico. I also load up on bags of chocolate, loads of coffee, sushi, my kids, mindless reality TV (“Housewives”), a massage and my amazing Tibi team.”

► **Pre-show rituals:** “I totally believe in karma, so pre-Fashion Week, I tip everyone really well — waiters, cab drivers, manicurists, everybody.”

► The perfect Fashion

Week outfit: “I live in comfort pieces like my R13 jeans, an oversized sweater and a Celine flat ankle boot.”



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COMING BACK TO 'COMMUNITY'

► As Season 4 premieres tonight, the cast of NBC's beleaguered oddball comedy reflect on the show's dramatic changes

The cast of "Community" was deep into filming the show's fourth season, but they couldn't shake the feeling that something was missing. No, it's not show creator and former show-runner Dan Harmon, who was quite publicly and unhappily removed from his post this past spring after the witty comedy failed for three seasons to take off in the ratings. No, it's the fan interaction that was missing, at least according to star Yvette Nicole Brown. "We of course feel the loss of Dan, but as far as our day-to-day life of doing a show, it feels the same," she says. "It's usually us making it, and then we have our audience going,



► Jim Rash and Joel McHale on the set of "Community."

"Yay!" or 'Boo!' And now we're kind of course-correct."

NBC first ordered an abbreviated 13-episode fourth season of "Community" and then pushed it off the fall schedule, leaving it in limbo until it was announced it would return this week.

But when we visited the set, the cast was already filming the season finale. "I guess you miss the feedback if it were to have started to air, but I feel the episodes are good, so I'm not too worried," says star Joel McHale. "I think it increases the fans' resolve."

The Jeff and

Dean Show

Who needs writers? "Community" stars Joel McHale and Jim Rash (an Oscar-winning screenwriter) prove in our interview that they'd make

a dynamite comedy duo all on their own:

- **Metro:** What would you say is the strangest fan experience you've had?
- **McHale:** I'm trying to think. There's inappropriate, but weird? There's never ...
- **Rash:** I sent my sperm to

one fan. Is that weird?

McHale: You did?

Rash: She asked so nicely for it.

McHale: That's weird. That is weird. Don't do that again.

Rash: What? I did it in private!

McHale: Well, I guess it's legal.



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TV watch list

'Community'

COMEDY. Back after a too-long hiatus, "Community"'s study group-turned-unlikely friends returns for its fourth year at Greendale. Expect great things from one of the most creative comedies on TV. **Season premiere, 8 p.m., NBC**

'Parks and Recreation'

COMEDY. Ann grapples with her own failed relationships as Ben and Leslie's wedding planning propels forward. **8:30 p.m., NBC**

'Project Runway'

REALITY. It's not hard to see why this competitive fashion design series is on its 11th season. Tune in for glitz, drama and sass. **9 p.m., Lifetime**

GILBERT CARRASQUILLO/FILMMAGIC



► Tim Gunn and model Heidi Klum

'Law on the Border'

REALITY. K-9 units in Nogales, Ariz., go up against drug cartels on the Mexican-American border. **6 p.m., Animal Planet**

'Totally Biased With W. Kamau Bell'

COMEDY. Stand-up W. Kamau Bell shares his slanted perspective on the news of the day. **11 p.m., FX**

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Aesop's troubles

► The fabled rapper speaks on trying to return to the stage, but having a rough start with a hurricane and a broken rib

First it was Hurricane Sandy, then a broken rib. Arthouse rapper and producer Aesop Rock's return to touring after a considerable hiatus got off to a bumpy start with seven shows canceled (albeit now rescheduled).

"Canceling is a terrible feeling," says the rapper whose real name is Ian Bavitz. "The Sandy situation was like, we were driving, we were getting calls. Everyone from promoters to agents to managers to venues were feeling sketchy; at that time everything on the news was speaking of a biblical event. It was a bad place, bad time and we weren't left with much of a choice. Then this rib thing is just annoying. It's a medical emergency so there's not much I can do, but that doesn't make it



You know him as Aesop Rock, but he also goes by Ian Bavitz.

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Quoted

"There's never much of a time when my actual workload slows. I like doing music and attempting to be creative in general."

feel any better."

The tour is for the broody indie-rapper/producer's first album in five years, "Skelethon," which features ex-Moldy Peaches' Kimya Dawson among its contributors. While the Aesop Rock moniker rested, however, Bavitz was busy with several projects under different names.

"There's never much of a time when my actual workload slows. I like doing music and attempting to be creative in general, so if something comes up and seems interesting, I go for it. Anything I do outside of Aesop Rock is more fuel for the fire when I get back to my solo stuff, which I always inevitably do."



Linda Laban
linda.laban@metro.us

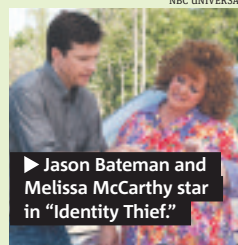
Ignore the scene and the game

How does Aesop deal with stress? "I'm about as neurotic as they come," he says. "I have made big ef-

forts to reel it in over the years. I like to think it's because I'm passionate. ... The absolute best thing I can do to combat stress is to focus primarily on the art and music side and not pay attention to the scene,

Top 10 films

NBC UNIVERSAL



► Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy star in "Identity Thief."

Reason to hit theaters this weekend

1 'Identity Thief' Jason Bateman stars as a straight-laced businessman determined to take his identity back from an unsuspecting con artist, played by the always-funny Melissa McCarthy in this comedy.

2 'Side Effects' Rooney Mara plays a deeply disturbed woman who has trouble coping with the release of her husband from prison. Mara joins an all-star cast including Jude Law, Channing Tatum and Catherine Zeta-Jones in this suspenseful crime drama film.

3 'Warm Bodies' Nicholas Hoult and Teresa Palmer make for an unusual pair in this new-age zombie love story. The two stars battle for survival and long for human companionship in this Jonathan Levine-directed film.

4 'Bullet to the Head' Based on the French novel "Du Plomb Dans La Tete," this action film takes you on a mental roller-coaster ride through the tough streets of New

Orleans. Sylvester Stallone and Sung Kang take on vicious enemies in this thriller, directed by Walter Hill.

5 'Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters' She is best known for saying things like "It was fated by the gods" in "Prince of Persia" and "Clash of the Titans." He is best known for busting heads open in "The Bourne Legacy" and "The Avengers." Together, Gemma Arterton and Jeremy Renner are the bounty-hunting, witch-slaying sibling team.

6 'Parker' Whoa, Jason Statham as a badass action hero? What a change of pace! This time, Jennifer Lopez contributes some very attractive set dressing.

7 'Movie 43' The Farrelly Brothers helm this multi-director, star-studded comedy made up of many vignettes and tied together with the quest of three teenagers to find the most taboo movie ever made.

8 'The Last Stand' Arnold Schwarzenegger takes on the leader of a drug cartel with the help of his amateur partners.

9 'Mama' Jessica Chastain and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau star as parents who help their young nieces adjust to -normal life after spending years abandoned.

10 'Broken City' Academy Award nominees Mark Wahlberg and Russell Crowe share an interesting relationship as determined cop and corrupt city mayor in this action-drama. ● METRO

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mydating



Who's your No. 1?

We spend so much energy trying to find "the one," buying books and reading columns about how to attract this person, hold their interest

and build a quality relationship. But this relationship isn't the only one that matters. And over this next week, when the hearts and cupid's are inescapable, I'd like to encourage you to keep that in mind.

► Your pals deserve some props this Valentine's Day.

As Valentine's Day approaches, give it up for your buddies

This Valentine's Day, as you're bombarded with all things pink, pre fixe dinners and expectations about what you should or shouldn't do, I'd like to divert your attention to something else: your friends. If Valentine's Day is truly about recognizing love, then we can't neglect this aspect of our lives.

While the idea that friendships are important may seem obvious, I'd like to challenge you to assess where this priority actually falls on your overall to-do list. When setting life goals, we resolve to work hard, "get ahead," stay in shape, find that special someone, keep that special someone or start a family. But having good friendships belong on that list too.

Having more or better friendships probably gets knocked off by things that

The Hookup



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seem "more important" because we tend not to look at friendships as "adult" priorities. As long as we can check off the "have friends" box to prove we're not losers, that can feel good enough. It may not hit us as a pressing matter if our friends aren't actually that supportive, interesting or fun — or if we've neglected to spend quality time with them, be there for them or stay up to speed on their lives.

But just checking off the box isn't enough. More than simply "having friends," if we want to be truly fulfilled we need to

actually be in our friendships. Put simply, here is what that means: Make time for the friends you adore. Stay present when you're with them, and be willing to be vulnerable and express your true feelings. If they piss you off, don't talk crap behind their backs; express your grievances to their faces — I know that's a scary thought, but I promise getting through it will only make your relationships better.

— *Amber Madison is a Manhattan-based relationship expert and dating coach. She is the author of 'Are All Guys Assholes?' for which she traveled the country, spoke to over 1,000 men and discovered that the answer to this question is no. You can follow her on Twitter @ambermadi or online at www.ambermadisononline.com*

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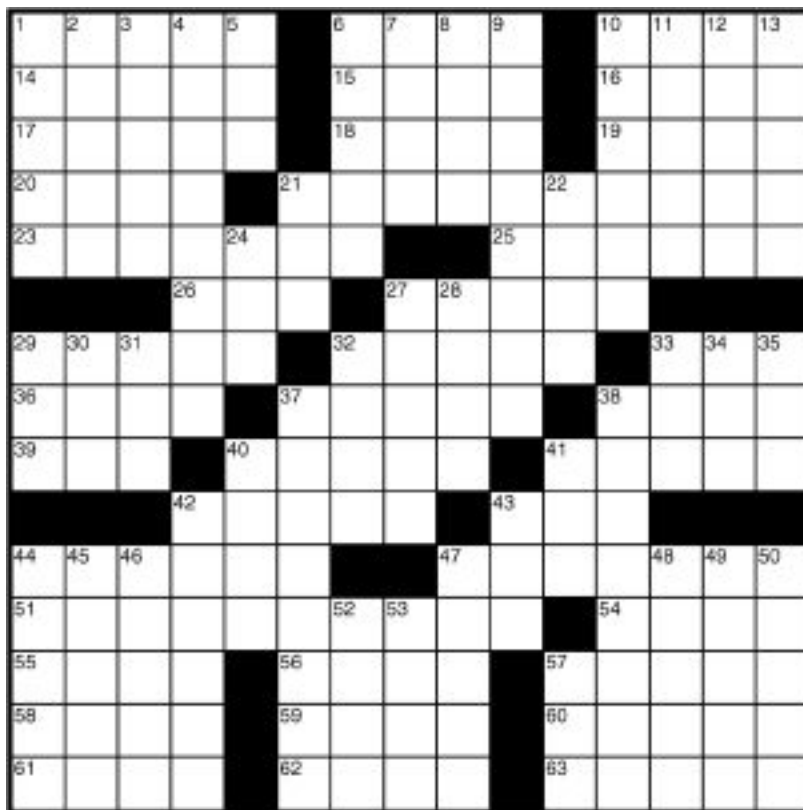
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10 Gizzard
14 Puts on guard
15 Ever's partner
16 With us now
17 Delete a file
18 — to win it
19 Peter Gunn's girl
20 Threat ender
21 Overly romantic, maybe (hyph.)
23 From memory (2 wds.)
25 Strong-arms
26 Bad-mouth
27 Host — Philbin
29 Wielded an axe
32 Happen again
33 Large amount
36 Lemony
37 Knight's weapon
38 Layered cookie
39 Keep fit
40 "Ah Sin" playwright
41 Book jacket ad
42 Makes yawn
43 "Get — of that junk!"
44 Half of the biathlon
47 Shrewd
51 They're often rifled (2 wds.)
54 Jumble
55 Sarah — Jewett
56 London district
57 Deep distress
58 Poker holding
59 Adult cygnet
60 Situate
61 Depot info
62 Isle of exile
63 Poisonous snake

Down

1 Dork
2 Far back in time
3 Impudent
4 Lying fallow
5 Mao — tung
6 "Luck of the Draw" singer
7 — Karenina
8 Film —
9 Conspiracy



10 Twitters
11 Change colors
12 Movie mermaid
13 Lawn spoilers
21 Almost grads
22 Giant slain by Odin
24 Give alms
27 Housing fees
28 Livy's "Lo!"
29 Mecca pilgrimage
30 Environmental

prefix
31 Sham locks
32 Hard to find
33 Capote on Broadway
34 Poet's contraction
35 San Francisco hill
37 Generosity
38 Eastern hemisphere (2 wds.)
40 Hagar's daughter
41 Profile
42 Sturgis visitors

43 ER personnel
44 Extent
45 Green-eyed Thai cat
46 Ancient Greek colony
47 Swedish currency
48 Homer opus
49 Sister's girl
50 Errand runner
52 Lower jaw
53 Crazy captain
57 Cum-laude stat

Horoscope

♊ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19. Even though you're usually outgoing and friendly in all your relationships, today you could be a bit withdrawn. Come out of the shadows; you'll have more fun mixing it up.
♓ Pisces Feb. 20-March 20. View your expectations realistically but hopefully, because making them realities is within the realm of possibility. Practical goals are definitely achievable.
♈ Aries March 21-April 19. The possibility of you being an excellent achiever is better than usual, so take on something that is especially important. You'll do a great job handling it.
♉ Taurus April 20-May 20. A

painful lesson you learned the hard way will be put to the test. You'll not only avoid making that mistake again, you'll know exactly how to handle things this time around.
♊ Gemini May 21-June 20. Financial and commercial involvements are your strong suits. You'll not only recognize a good deal when you see one, you'll know how to make the most of it.
♋ Cancer June 21-July 22. The most beneficial involvement you could enter would be some kind of partnership. If each party does his or her best, mutual advantages will result.
♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 22. Something you've been trying to accomplish that hasn't worked out thus far can finally be wrapped up if you take a methodical approach.

♍ Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Don't be reluctant to take charge of things when you get the chance. You'll be far better at calling the shots than you would be trying to comply with the directives of another.
♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23. It behooves you not to waste any time focusing on frivolous pursuits. Bend your efforts toward addressing your more serious problems, handling the tougher ones first.
♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Don't beat around the bush when there is a serious issue you need to iron out with another. Get down to basics as quickly as you can, and set your mind upon a resolution.
♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21. The possibility of personal gain looks exceptionally good, even if it won't be earth-shat-

tering. Be alert for different ways you can improve your material circumstances.
♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19. Because there is something difficult that has to be taken care of, you'll be the one called upon to get it done. Answer the call of your peers with alacrity and zest.
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Letters

Science column sparks renewed interest in world

RE: "A WAY TO BE HAPPIER" (METRO, FEB. 4) I love columnist Justin Dowd's Weird Science column and I look forward to reading it. He always writes about something interesting — so interesting, I read his column in the morning and then spend my lunch hour on the Internet looking for more information. Whether it's spindles in a whale's brain or looking up Good Think Inc., it's always something! I want him to know he touches me and inspires me.
BEVERLY HUGHES, VIA E-MAIL

Jesus Christ and the superstars: A trend worth celebrating

RE: "MEET THE HOT, NEW HOLLYWOOD MEET-UP: JESUS" (METRO, FEB. 6) The news that some celebs are going to a Bible study is the best I've heard in a long time! Coming from a 27-year-old Lutheran, which is a rare breed these days, I am thrilled that celebrities are publically showing interest in something other than expensive cars, luxurious island vacations and each other.

While Christians and those of other religions are consistently portrayed on TV, news and movies as hardheaded, bigoted, crazy fundamentalists, it would be so refreshing if those in the public spotlight would embrace the good parts of religion — i.e., loving your neighbor (who is really every human being), and loving someone bigger than yourself.

ANNIE FERRIS, VIA E-MAIL

Leave the Teflon to the non-stick cooking pots

RE: "DON'T SHOOT YOUR MOUTH OFF UNLESS YOU KNOW ALL THE TERMS" (METRO, FEB. 6) An assault weapon is one that is easy for the infantry to carry and can repeatedly kill many people. That kind of weapon didn't exist in the 1700s. Cop-killer bullets are well known. They are Teflon-coated and can penetrate many types of vests.

Human societies govern themselves. The Constitution gives us the right to do that by vote. We have a right to address and balance needs for safety, hunting, self-defense and police work. Letter writer Moe Priell has a right to "determine what I need," but he's not the only one.

We aren't anti-gun. We just want to maintain a little safety.

HARRY THORN, VIA E-MAIL

SUDOKU: HARD

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3				6		2	5	
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9			2		8	4		

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

E-mail your letters:
letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

► Sunday kicks off the Year of the Snake
 ► Celebrate at one of these Metro-approved buzzy spots

OUR PICKS FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR

Hakkasan New York

**311 W. 43rd St.,
 212-776-1818**
 Dig into a new year dim sum platter, stir-fry crispy sesame prawn, wok-fry

scallop with Chinese chive in barbecue sauce and mixed mushrooms wrapped in beancurd at the Michelin-starred eatery. You can enjoy everything with specialty cocktails, like the Chinese

Mule (Hangar One vodka, Ama No To junmai sake, cilantro, ginger, lime and ginger beer) or the Hakkatini (Grey Goose L'Orange vodka, Campari, Grand Marnier, apple juice and orange bitters).

► Take a seat at Hakkasan.

Mission Chinese Food

**154 Orchard St.,
 212-529-8800**
 Hungry masses are consistently flocking to Danny Bowien's tiny restaurant to sample the inventive "Americanized-Oriental" cuisine that critics just can't get enough of. We recommend salt cod fried rice and the thrice-cooked bacon — it's spicy! If you can get a table, any table, take it.

can't make it out to the Flushing location, you can get your fill at the shop's East Village, Chinatown and (come Saturday) Greenpoint outposts. Already a fan? Try the owners' new Flushing joint, Biang!, a family-style, cash-only spot specializing in noodles.

Buddakan

75 Ninth Ave., 212-989-6699
 The sprawling space is worth a visit year-round, but for Chinese New Year, it's offering a kickoff Dim Sum brunch on Sunday (three courses, \$55), dancers, a DJ and those tiny little red envelopes that are doled out for prosperity — a select number of which will contain a ticket for an insider's tour of Chinatown with Buddakans executive chef Yang Huang. For two weeks afterward, the celeb-friendly hot spot will

RedFarm

**529 Hudson St.,
 212-792-9700**
 Step inside this West Village townhouse for a taste of China, influenced heavily by the green market. The restaurant's traditional reservation policy is not in effect during Chinese New Year festivities (tomorrow-Wednesday), so call at 5

p.m. on the day you want to dine to get yourself on the list. The eatery's a-la-carte menu will be available, as will a number

of Year of the Snake specialty dishes, like Gold Coin scallops and Long Life short ribs with double noodles.

EVAN SUNG

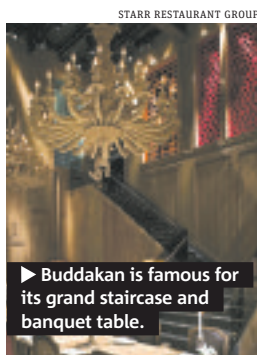


► It doesn't get much cuter than this: PAC-MAN dumplings at RedFarm.

Xi'an Famous Foods

**Multiple locations,
 www.xianfoods.com**
 Xi'an, named after China's first capital, offers an amalgam of Chinese and Middle Eastern delights that foodies like Anthony Bourdain and Andrew Zimmern have praised. The famous dishes here include Liang Pi "Cold Skin" Noodles, a savory cumin lamb burger and lamb Pao Mo, and if you

can't make it out to the Flushing location, you can get your fill at the shop's East Village, Chinatown and (come Saturday) Greenpoint outposts. Already a fan? Try the owners' new Flushing joint, Biang!, a family-style, cash-only spot specializing in noodles.



► Buddakan is famous for its grand staircase and banquet table.

Don't miss this

On Sunday, Hotel Indigo's China Latina (127 W. 28th St., 646-397-9881) is beginning a quirky Latin American-Asian fusion dim sum, with items like sushi burritos, chorizo dumplings and teriyaki-ginger chicken wings. Gung hay fat choy!

serve a-la-carte options that represent the virtues associated with Chinese New Year, like happiness and longevity. And to round out the festivities, the chefs and kitchen team will host a dumpling-making class and brunch on Feb. 16 (\$85 per person).



Meredith Engel
 meredith.engel@metro.us

Cocktail recipe

Neon Melon

We're toasting the start of Fashion Week with this concoction, created by Liquid Lab NYC and inspired by all the brights about to hit the runway (we're looking at you, Proenza Schouler).

- 2 oz. Avion Blanco
- 0.5 oz. Fresh lime
- 0.5 oz. St. Germain
- 0.25 oz. Midori
- 0.5 oz. White cranberry juice
- Fresh honeydew

Add honeydew slices and ice to a tall glass. In a separate shaker, mix all ingredients, shake and strain over ice and honeydew. Add one honeydew slice for garnish.

Find it at: Ava Penthouse, 210 W. 55th St., 212-956-7020



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The Rundown



► Judge which bloody mary is ripe for the winning at L'Apicio on Saturday.

Cocktails

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Saturday, 1-4 p.m., L'Apicio, 13 E. 1st St., \$40-\$60 Mixologists from DBGB, Roberta's, Peels, Saxon + Parole, Colicchio & Sons and more compete this afternoon to win Best Bloody Mary. Enjoy drink and brunch samples as you cast your vote: Who's the bloody best? **LT**

MUSIC

American Songbook Feat. Bonnie 'Prince' Billy

Tonight, 8:30 p.m., The Allen Room, 10 Columbus Circle, \$30 Will Oldham's songs transport you to a star-filled night around a campfire in Montana. His songs are informed by country music, but there's an edge to the crew that strums behind him. **BILL CHENEVERT**

DANCE

Basement Bhangra w/ 'Dosa Hunt' Screening Tonight, 7 p.m., Le Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleecker St., \$15

Rakha's mixes are driven by the sounds of traditional Indian instruments and beats. His songs have kept crowds smiling and sweating since way before "Slumdog Millionaire." **ASHWIN SODHI**

Dark Disco: Chinese New Year Saturday, 11 p.m., 88 Palace, 88 Broadway, \$15

DJ Jacques Greene headlines this special Chinese New Year edition of MeanRed's Dark Disco. **LEAH TAYLOR**

BOOKS

Stuart Nadler: 'Wise Men' Tomorrow, 7 p.m.,

Comedy

Eddie Izzard: Work in Progress

Now-Feb. 14, Culture Project, 45 Bleecker St., \$30 World-renowned comedian Eddie Izzard works out the kinks from his new international show "Force Majeure" on the stage of the intimate Culture Project. The man is a legend, and it's exciting to see

his creative process and score a close-up sneak peek of his latest material. **KENNETH HUGHES**

Don't be fooled by that serious expression: Izzard wants you to laugh!



MUSEUMS

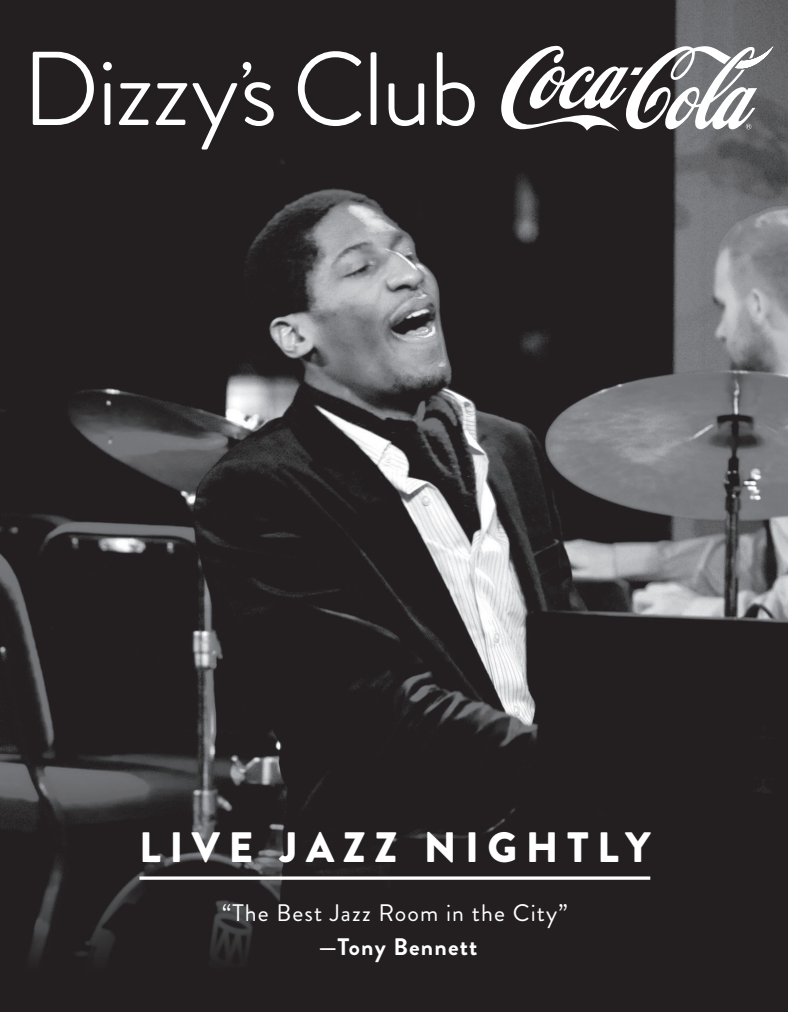
Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s

Through Mar. 31, Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Ave., \$10 Bringing together pictures and pieces from Chicago, San Diego, Dallas, Cleveland, San Francisco, and New York, this show gives a glimpse into what they thought today would look like. **JD**

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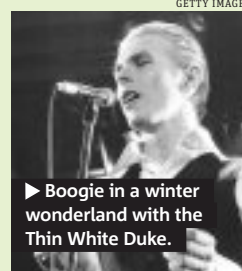
Songza

It's cold out, so chill out

During the coldest months of winter, what better way to soothe the chill than with some cozy mellow vibes from the '70s? Shuggie Otis, David Bowie and

Roberta Flack — plus a number of lesser-known artists worth hearing — make up the

GETTY IMAGES



► Boogie in a winter wonderland with the Thin White Duke.

Sophisticated '70s list on Songza.com. Get groovy and check it out at www.songza.com/discover/decades/1970s/sophisticated-70s-TacticCo.

— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. The company offers thousands of expertly-curated playlists for free on the Web, iPhone and iPad.

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**Based on a Nutrisystem survey of customers who have been on program two or more months, October 2012.

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Bradshaw latest to go as Giants slash salary

▶ Team releases veteran back to clear up free-agent money
▶ Wilson's time to fill starting role ▶ Canty also feels cap crunch

The Giants cut bait with one of their top players yesterday as they continue to free up money for the offseason.

Running back Ahmad Bradshaw, who was drafted by the Giants out of Marshall in the seventh round in 2007, was released by the team.

"Pound for pound, Bradshaw is one of the toughest football players that I've been around," general manager Jerry Reese said in a statement. "Ahmad played football like Giants football should be played."

Bradshaw took over as the team's starting running back from Brandon Jacobs, even before Jacobs was let go after the 2011



▶ Bradshaw, 27, had 4,000 rushing yards for the Giants and 1,000 receiving yards in his career.

season. He had just 90 carries in his first two seasons with the Giants but averaged 208 carries per season over the last four years. He had 1,015 yards and six

touchdowns in 2012 despite missing two games.

Bradshaw had two years left on a four-year, \$18 million deal. He was set to make \$3.75 million

next season and \$4 million in 2014. The cap numbers are just over \$6 million both of those seasons due to prorated guaranteed money.

He spent a lot of time injured, however, including foot problems in 2012. The team drafted running back David Wilson in the first round of the 2012 NFL Draft, and despite a slow start, emerged down the stretch for the Giants.

If you give the ball to him, he's going to get every inch of what is there — and sometimes when it's not blocked, he still gets it," head coach Tom Coughlin said.

Mark Osborne
mark.osborne@metro.us

Team releases Canty as well

The team also announced they have released defensive lineman Chris Canty. Canty, a Bronx native, spent the last four seasons with



the Giants. He had nine career sacks as a Giant, including four in 2011 and three this past season.

"Chris Canty is a pro's pro, a true team player and

competitor," Reese said. "He helped us get to the top in 2011, and it was a pleasure having him here during his time with the New York Giants."

Canty had two years remaining on his contract as

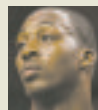
well, and was due \$6.25 million this upcoming season and \$6.5 million in 2014.

Victor Cruz, Will Beatty, Kenny Phillips and Martellus Bennett are all free agents the team needs to sign this offseason. ● METRO/MO

NBA in brief

Report: Howard won't be dealt

LAKERS. The Nets, nor anyone else, will not be adding Dwight Howard to their team for the second half of the NBA season.



Multiple sources report the Lakers have no plans to trade the star center before the Feb. 21 trade deadline, despite his impending free agency and the team's on-court struggles.

The Lakers are just 23-26, but they have won six of seven, three of which were on the road. Of course, Howard hasn't played in any of those three wins as he deals with a right-shoulder injury. ● METRO

Wallace to practice after All-Star break

KNICKS. Knicks head coach Mike Woodson said yesterday that power forward Rasheed Wallace will return to practice after the All-Star Game.

Then again, he's still listed as day-to-day, as he has been since Dec. 13, with a stress reaction in his foot.

● METRO

In the news



Rob Ryan set to join Saints

The Ryan brothers are both back in the NFL, and the world is whole again.

Rob Ryan, brother of Jets head coach Rex Ryan, will reportedly be hired as the new defensive coordinator for the Saints. He replaces former Giants DC Steve Spagnuolo.

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Top hoops adds

1 E'Twaun Moore, G, ORL — The Magic have been ravaged by injuries and figure to deal J.J. Redick at the deadline.

2 Nick Young, SG, PHI — Jason Richardson's knee injury is chronic, and Young is playing for a new contract.

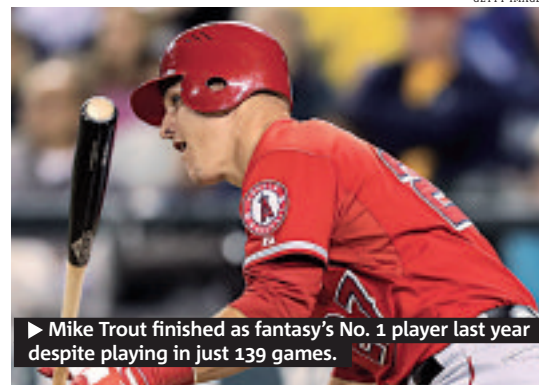
BURYING THE LEAD

What do sex, driving and the first round of fantasy baseball drafts all have in common? Safety is a priority.

Unlike other fantasy sports, we can't win our baseball league with our first-round pick. The rosters are too deep and there are too many impact players. However, we can lose it by whiffing. So as we take a look at some of the Top 10 players for 2013, be sure to exercise proper precautions.

Reel big fish

Do everything you can to get into the Top 3 this season. As long as he's not suspended, **Ryan Braun** will



▶ Mike Trout finished as fantasy's No. 1 player last year despite playing in just 139 games.

mash 30 homers, steal 25 bases and hit over .300.

Miguel Cabrera has never missed more than 12 games in a season and has at least 30 jacks in six straight years. **Mike Trout** may look risky, but not when we examine his pedigree and role on top of the Angels' potent offense.

Meat in middle

A healthy **Matt Kemp** is a good bet to bounce back in steals, making him the No. 4 pick. **Albert Pujols** is only 33, so let's not write him off yet. **Robinson Cano**, a healthy **Joey Votto** and **Carlos Gonzalez** are difference-makers.